(c) EIL is engaged in rendering PMC and consultancy services for overseas clients and is currently working in Algeria and Abu Dhabi. Amount of foreign exchange earned as professional fee from Overseas Operations during the Finance Year 2008-09 was equivalent of Indian Rupees 121.43 corers.

Fire in IOC depot at Jaipur

1339. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:
SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for recent fires at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot Jaipur;

(b) the other previous cases of oil depot fires during the last three years;

(c) whether Government plans to protect oil depots in Odisha alongwith all depots in the country; and

(d) whether Government would hold an enquiry and fix responsibility for such a loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (d) A seven member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has been constituted by the Ministry on 31.10.2009 to inquire into the causes of the incident of fire at IOC depot, Jaipur and to suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee will submit its report within 60 days. Preliminary findings have indicated that there was massive leakage of Motor Spirit (MS) from the valve of one of the tank, which let formation of vapour cloud. Spark from an unknown source resulted in explosion of the vapour cloud, which started the fire in all the 11 tanks of the depot.

(b) During the last three years, there has been no major fire in oil depots of public sector oil companies.

(c) There is an existing mechanism to ensure the safety at all oil depots of public sector oil companies in the country, including Odisha, which includes regular safety audits to ensure, adherence to the safety norms prescribed by OISD Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), State Pollution Control Boards, etc. Further, in order to take preventive steps so as to avoid such incidents in future, the Ministry convened a meeting on 3.11.209, to review the safety and security at oil and gas installations in the country, which was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of all public and major private oil companies having installations in the country.

Distribution of LPG in rural areas

1340. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: